

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1-11. (cancelled).

12. (currently amended) A method for ~~preventing or treating~~ a stress-induced inflammatory disorder in a mammal, comprising administering to a mammal in need of treatment an effective amount of a formulation comprising least  $10^6$  CFU/ml of each of ~~applying a formulation to the mammal, the formulation comprising a result of providing~~ *Pediococcus pentosaceus* 16:1 (LMG P-20608), *Leuconostoc mesenteriodes* 23-77:1 (LMG P-20607), *Lactobacillus paracasei subsp paracasei* F-19 (LMG P-17086), and *Lactobacillus plantarum* 2362 (LMG P-20606), ~~wherein the bacterial strains are in an amount of at least  $10^{11}$  CFU/ml of each of the bacteria and at least one fiber~~ four different fibers.

13. (currently amended) ~~The~~A method according to claim 12, wherein the mammal is a human being.

14. (currently amended) ~~The~~A method according to claim 12, wherein stress-induced inflammatory disorder is determined as an increase in neutrophils, cytokines, myeloperoxidase and/or accumulation of the oxidation-related malonedialdehyde.

15. (currently amended) ~~The~~A method according to claim 12, wherein the stress induced inflammatory disorder is a disorder selected from the group consisting of lung inflammation, urinary inflammation, vaginal inflammation, bowel inflammation, stomach inflammation, liver inflammation, muscle inflammation, inflammation of endocrine and reproductive organs, and brain inflammation.

16. (currently amended) ~~The~~A method according to claim ~~12~~145, wherein the fiber is selected from the group consisting of beta-glucan, inulin, pectin, resistant starch,

cellulose, hemicellulose, arabinoxylans, arabinogalactans, polyfructose, ~~inulin,~~  
oligofructans, ~~galacto-oligosaccharides~~galacto-oligosaccharides, gums, mucilages, ~~pectins,~~  
dextrins, maltodextrins, potato dextrins, synthesized carbohydrates, polydextrose,  
~~methylcellulose~~ ~~methylcellulose~~ and  
~~hydroxypropylmethylcellulose~~hydroxypropylmethylcellulose.

17. (currently amended) ~~The~~A method according to claim 12, wherein the  
~~fiber is inulin, and the formulation further comprises the fibers~~four fibers are inulin, beta-  
glucan, pectin and resistant starch.

18. (currently amended) ~~The~~A method according to claim 17, wherein the  
fibers are present in the formulation in an amount of 2.5 g of each fiber.

19. (currently amended) ~~The~~A method according to claim ~~12~~16, wherein the  
fiber is selected from lignin substances from a plant ~~plants~~selected from the group  
comprising waxes, cutin, phytate, saponin, suberin and tannins.

20. (currently amended) ~~The~~A method according to claim 12, wherein the  
formulation further comprises at least one antioxidant, vitamin, mineral, amino acid,  
peptide or protein.

21. (currently amended) ~~The~~A method according to claim 12, wherein the  
formulation further comprises glutamine, or a synthetic version thereof.

22. (currently amended) ~~The~~A method according to claim 12, wherein the  
formulation further comprises one or more therapeutic agents.

23. (currently amended) ~~The~~A method according to claim 12, wherein the  
formulation is solid or liquid, ~~such as tablet, gel or spray.~~

24. (new) The method according to claim 23, wherein the formulation is in  
the form of a tablet, a gel or a spray.

25. (new) The method according to claim 12, wherein the formulation  
comprises least  $10^{10}$  CFU/ml of each of *Pediococcus pentosaceus* 16:1 (LMG P-20608),

*Leuconostoc mesenteriodes* 23-77:1 (LMG P-20607), *Lactobacillus paracasei* subsp *paracasei* F-19 (LMG P-17086), and *Lactobacillus plantarum* 2362 (LMG P-20606).

26. (new) The method according to claim 12, wherein the formulation comprises least  $10^{11}$  CFU/ml of each of *Pediococcus pentosaceus* 16:1 (LMG P-20608), *Leuconostoc mesenteriodes* 23-77:1 (LMG P-20607), *Lactobacillus paracasei* subsp *paracasei* F-19 (LMG P-17086), and *Lactobacillus plantarum* 2362 (LMG P-20606).